

PRESS RELEASE

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New \$4.7M Grant Will Help Education Alliance, Partners Support Workforce Development in Mississippi and West Virginia

CHARLESTON, W.Va, June 29, 2023 — Today, [Education Alliance](http://www.EducationAlliance.org) was awarded \$4.7 million from the [Appalachian Regional Commission](http://www.AppalachianRegionalCommission.org) (ARC) for its new project **CAREERS (Career Acceleration Readiness and Employment Experiences for Region Students)**. The funding was made available through ARC's [Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies \(ARISE\)](http://www.AppalachianRegionalInitiativeforStrongerEconomies.org) which drives large-scale economic transformation through multi-state collaboration.

Education Alliance, along with 10 local partners in Mississippi and West Virginia, will help fill workforce needs in manufacturing and healthcare sectors by accelerating career education and training for underserved high school students seeking careers in these fields.

"I strongly believe that the key to transforming Appalachia's economic vitality can be found in vision and collaboration across state lines," said ARC Federal Co-Chair Gayle Manchin. "I'm encouraged by the way our newest ARISE grantees have come together to forge plans that will greatly increase workforce development and business ventures in ways that will positively affect the entire region."

The growing list of project partners includes:

- Jefferson County Schools, West Virginia
- Kanawha County Schools, West Virginia
- Monongalia County Schools, West Virginia
- New Albany School District and Union County, Mississippi
- Putnam County Schools, West Virginia
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Mississippi
- Toyota Motor Manufacturing, West Virginia
- WVU Health System through its subsidiary hospitals: Jefferson Medical Center, J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital, WVU Children's Hospital

"I want to thank ARC for the significant investment in the CAREERS workforce development program. CAREERS will accelerate life-changing opportunities for high school students to simultaneously learn, earn, and eventually advance along a career path," said Dr. Amelia Courts, President/CEO of The Education Alliance. "I am extremely grateful for the collaboration of all our partners Toyota, WVU Health System, New Albany Schools in Union County Mississippi, along with Jefferson, Monongalia, Kanawha, and Putnam County Schools in West Virginia. I also want to acknowledge the remarkable support of the

Claude Worthington Benedum and Steeley Foundations which committed significant matching funds to help leverage these resources for students.”

[ARISE](#) makes \$73.5 million available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021](#) - ARC launched ARISE in August of 2022 to strengthen Appalachian business and industry, and to grow and support the development of new economic opportunities through multi-state collaborative projects.

Additional information about ARC’s ARISE funding opportunity for multi-state collaboration is available at www.arc.gov/ARISE.

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About the Education Alliance

The Education Alliance is a statewide nonprofit organization that advocates for a quality public education for all students. Established in 1983, the Alliance works to advance its mission by mobilizing business and community partnerships that benefit West Virginia’s public school students. For more information, visit educationalliance.org.

About the Appalachian Regional Commission

The Appalachian Regional Commission is an economic development agency of the federal government and 13 state governments focusing on 423 counties across the Appalachian Region. ARC’s mission is to innovate, partner, and invest to build community capacity and strengthen economic growth in Appalachia to help the Region achieve socioeconomic parity with the nation.